

MISSOURI CAPITOL POLICE ADVISOR

630 West Main Street - Jefferson City, Missouri - (573) 751-2764



January 2015

Operation T.O.Y.S

A Jefferson City tradition – Operation T.O.Y.S – was a success once again this holiday season. On Saturday, Dec. 20, three local children rode along with Capitol Police officers for a Christmas adventure. The children got to control the emergency lights and sirens as they journeyed to the eastside Walmart. At the store, Santa Claus greeted each the children as they began their shopping adventure. Other participating law enforcement agencies were the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Cole County Sheriff's Department, Jefferson City Police Department and the Missouri Department of Corrections. Thanks to all the state employees whose generous contributions helped bring joy to 76 children and their families!

Get Ready for More Pedestrians, Cars and Parking Demand

Capitol Police reminds employees to prepare for an increase in both pedestrian traffic and demand for parking as the 2015 legislative session begins. Capitol Police asks that everyone drive safely, park courteously, and use crosswalks where available.

Missouri State Office Building Closings – Info Line

Missouri Capitol Police reminds state employees of the Office of Administration's toll free hotline for announcements concerning state office closures. The number to call is (888) 390-9927. Recorded messages address holiday closures, special building closures as a result of weather or critical incidents, and the location of service centers like warming centers, whenever they're activated. Also, if you are required to work at a time when your office is closed, be sure to arrange entry into secured areas in advance.

Spotlight:	Safety Tips for Winter Travel	
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Winter travel brings additional dangers that should be considered. Whenever possible, avoid driving in snow or ice storms. If you are required to travel in bad weather, drive slowly and cautiously, allowing extra time for your trip. Let someone know where you are going, the route you are taking, and when you expect to arrive so they can alert authorities, if you do not reach your destination. Remember these tips:

- Keep standard emergency equipment in your vehicle, including a cell phone, flashlight, jumper cables or equivalent jump box, sand or kitty litter (for traction), ice scraper, snow brush, small shovel, blankets and warning devices (flares, reflectors, etc.).
- For long trips, drivers should keep their vehicles equipped with water, snacks, extra blankets, and any required medications in case of an emergency.
- Remember, snow packed in or around the exhaust pipe can cause high levels of carbon monoxide in the car. If you become stuck in the snow, clear all snow away from the exhaust pipe while you wait for assistance. Do not sit in a parked car with the engine running, unless a window is open slightly to let in fresh air. Wrap yourself in blankets, only running the car's heater for a few minutes every hour to keep warm if the vehicle is low on gas.

For more safety tips and information about preparing for winter travel, visit the OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) website at <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/SafeDriving.pdf>.

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February 2015

Disabled Parking Law

In an effort to make all locations accessible to any visitor, please remember disabled parking spaces are only to be used by a disabled person who has been issued a disabled license plate or windshield hanging placard. According to [state law](#), the person issued the disabled license plate or windshield hanging placard must be an occupant of the motor vehicle either immediately prior to parking or while the vehicle is being parked. Failure to provide a disabled registration certificate or other authorization upon request can result in the driver being charged with a Class A misdemeanor.

Lost and Found

Your lost belongings are important to us. Missouri Capitol Police maintains a lost and found at our office in the Truman State Office Building, located in Room 101. If you believe you have misplaced an item, please contact our office to see if it has been turned in. Jewelry, keys, glasses, cell phones and clothing are turned in weekly. To inquire if an item has been turned in, call (573) 751-2541 anytime, or stop by the communications window from 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday.

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Spotlight:

Workplace Safety, Security and Crime Prevention



State employees play an important role in workplace safety, security and crime prevention. You can help reduce the likelihood of crime and violence in your workplace by remembering these tips:

- As you enter your workplace, be aware of your surroundings. If you use an ID badge or access code to access your building, always pull doors shut once inside. Do not allow those you do not know to enter behind you.
- Secure personal items when leaving your work area and store valuable items out of sight. At the end of the day, lock any doors or windows to keep out intruders, as well as cabinets and drawers for safe keeping.
- Report thefts, threats, property damage or suspicious activity to Capitol Police immediately. Keep personal records of incidents you have witnessed for reference.
- If you ever fear someone may try to cause physical harm to you at work, report the situation to your supervisor and/or law enforcement as soon as possible.

Visit our home page at WWW.MCP.DPS.MO.GOV for safety tips and more
Previous issues of "The Advisor" can be found in our [Advisor Archives](#)

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March 2015

K-9 Team Receives National Certification

Capitol Police K-9 Hutch and his handler Officer DeAnne Bogg received national certification as an explosives detection team on Dec. 10, 2014 through the North American Police Work Dog Association. NAPWDA is a nationally recognized organization that established a working standard for all police work dogs, handlers, and trainers through an accreditation program. To become certified, Officer Bogg and K-9 Hutch completed a series of tests to determine their proficiency and reliability in detecting various explosive materials.

Hutch is a 3-year-old blonde Labrador and became a member of the Missouri Capitol Police Department in June 2014. Join us in congratulating Officer Bogg and K-9 Hutch!

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Spotlight:

Keeping Safety in Mind this Winter and Spring



Space Heaters Require Extra Caution

In one five-day period this winter, space heaters and supplemental heating equipment caused seven deaths and seriously injured five others in Missouri. Because of the safety risk, space heaters and other portable electrical heating units are not permitted in state buildings, unless specifically authorized by the facility operations manager. All Missourians should understand that space heaters account for about one-third of home heating fires and 80 percent of home heating fire deaths, according to the National Fire Protection Association. If using space heaters in your home, its essential to remember these safety rules:

- Establish a three-foot safety zone around heating equipment, keeping it free of anything flammable.
- Keep children and pets out of the safety zone.
- Do not leave heaters unattended. Turn off portable heaters when leaving a room or going to bed.
- Never overloaded an outlet. Many extension cords and power strips aren't manufactured to handle the load of an electric heater. Avoid using extension cords and power strips with space heaters. Never place extension cords underneath a rug.
- Make sure your residence is equipped with working smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

Severe Weather Awareness Week

The warmer weather that is around the corner brings other risks to the Show-Me State. Our state's Missouri's history of tornadoes, severe storms and flooding is the reason Missouri observes Severe Weather Awareness Week each year. This year it's March 2-6. Each day is devoted to education about a different aspect of severe weather: Preparedness Day, Tornado Safety Day, Flash Flood Safety Day, Severe Thunderstorm Day and NOAA Weather Radio Day. On Tornado Safety Day, Tuesday, March 3, Missouri will conduct the 41st annual Statewide Tornado Drill at 1:30 p.m. For more information on Severe Weather Awareness Week and safety tips, visit the National Weather Service's [informational page](#). For videos showing how to protect yourself from severe weather visit [Missouri StormAware](#).

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April 2015

Severe Weather Safety

A good starting place for spring severe weather safety is learning the difference between a “watch” and a “warning.” When a severe thunderstorm watch is issued, there is the potential for thunderstorms to develop, which could produce large hail or damaging winds. In the case of a watch, go about your normal activities but continue to listen for weather updates. If the National Weather Service issues a severe thunderstorm warning, a severe thunderstorm is occurring or is imminent based on Doppler radar. You should move indoors to a place of safety and continue to listen to local weather reports.

A tornado watch, like a severe thunderstorm watch, means that conditions are favorable for a tornado to form. Be aware and prepare yourself to take cover. A tornado warning is the ultimate in severe warnings, with a tornado either occurring or about to occur, based on radar. When a tornado warning is issued, you should take cover immediately. In a building, you should shelter in the basement or an interior room on the lowest floor of the structure. In a mobile home, you should leave immediately and seek shelter in a previously identified solid structure that is easily accessible and that you can reach quickly.

To view short videos that demonstrate how to shelter in different types of buildings, visit the [Missouri StormAware website](http://MissouriStormAware.com).

Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA)

Wireless Emergency Alerts are free emergency messages sent by authorized government alerting authorities through your mobile carrier. There are three types of alerts you may receive: extreme weather and threatening emergencies, Amber Alerts and presidential alerts during a national emergency.

To learn more about WEA's and participating carrier information, please visit www.ctia.org

Spotlight:

National Distracted Driving Awareness Month



April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Join us in educating drivers of the dangers of distracted driving and making Missouri roadways safer. Distractions take a driver's mind off the road and everyone in the vehicle, other vehicles and pedestrians. Avoid the following activities while driving to help save lives:

- Using a phone
- Eating or drinking
- Grooming
- Reading maps or using a navigation system
- Watching a video
- Adjusting radio, CD player, or MP3 player

Most importantly, do not text and drive. Texting while driving requires visual, manual and cognitive attention and is becoming the most prevalent distraction. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation, on average, drivers take their eyes off the road for five seconds for each text. When traveling at 55 mph, that the equivalent of driving the length of a football field – blindfolded.

For more information on ending distracted driving, visit www.distraction.gov/

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May 2015

Law Enforcement Memorial

Two moving ceremonies honoring fallen law enforcement officers will take place at the Missouri Law Enforcement Memorial on the north side of the Capitol on May 1 and 2. On Friday, May 1, at 8 p.m., a candlelight vigil will be held in honor of all Missouri law enforcement officers who died in the line of duty. On Saturday, May 2, at 10 a.m., law enforcement families from across the state will gather for the annual Law Enforcement Memorial Service. The names of two Missouri Law Enforcement officers who died in the line of duty in 2014 will be added to the memorial – Cedar County Sheriff's Department Deputy Matthew Chism and Alton Police Department Officer Eddie Johnson Jr. – and the families of fallen law enforcement officers through the decades will gather and place wreaths at the memorial. The memorial is dedicated to all Missouri law enforcement heroes who made the supreme sacrifice, to the family members of fallen officers, and to all members of law enforcement for serving and protecting the citizens of Missouri. The Department of Public Safety's [Law Enforcement Memorial Web page](#) includes a searchable database that allows you to locate each fallen officer's name on the memorial wall of honor.

Spotlight:

Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month



Missouri Capitol Police reminds motorists and motorcyclists alike to "Share the Road" during Motorcycle Safety Awareness Month. Motorcyclist will be out in force as warmer weather approaches, please follow these safety tips to ensure Missouri roadways are safe for all motorists:

Automobile Driver Tips:

- Though a motorcycle is a small vehicle, its operator shares the same rights of the road as any other motorist. Allow the motorcycle the full width of a lane at all times.
- Always signal when changing lanes or merging with traffic.
- Be careful if you see a motorcycle with a signal on: motorcycle signals are often non-canceling and might have been forgotten. Always ensure that the motorcycle is turning before proceeding.
- Check all mirrors and blind spots for motorcycles before changing lanes or merging with traffic, especially at intersections.
- Always allow more following distance – three to four seconds – when behind a motorcycle. This gives the motorcyclist more time to maneuver or stop in an emergency.
- Never drive distracted or impaired.

Motorcyclist Tips:

- Wear a DOT compliant helmet and other protective gear.
- Obey all traffic laws and be properly licensed.
- Use hand and turn signals during every lane change or turn.
- Wear brightly colored clothes and reflective tape to increase visibility.
- Ride in the middle of the lane so you will be more visible to drivers.
- Never ride distracted or impaired.
- Read the Missouri State Highway Patrol's [motorcycle safety brochure](#).

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June 2015

Summer Weather Safety Week

Missouri summers bring days of excessive heat and humidity that can pose risks to the elderly and people with pre-existing health issues. Summer Weather Safety Week, June 21-27, calls attention to the steps we can all take to protect ourselves, our children and neighbors:

- Check on family, friends and neighbors who do not have air conditioning and who spend much of their time alone.
- Never leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles.
- Drink plenty of water and limit intake of alcoholic beverages.
- If you do not have air conditioning, consider spending the warmest part of the day in public buildings such as libraries, schools, movie theaters, shopping malls and other community facilities.
- Be aware of medications that may impair the body's response to heat, including antihistamines, tranquilizers and some medications for heart disease.

Salute to America 2015

This year's celebration will be held the July 2-4. The Capitol will be open normal business hours on Thursday and Friday, July 2-3 (7 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.) and from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 4. For information regarding activities go to: <http://www.salutetoamerica.org/>. For information on restrictions regarding public use of state facilities go to: <http://www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/1csr/1c35-1.pdf>.

MCP Welcomes Officer Gilpin

Missouri Capitol Police welcomes Officer David Gilpin to the department. Officer Gilpin comes to Capitol Police from the Department of Corrections where he attained the rank of sergeant.

Sign-Up for the MCP Advisor

To receive the monthly *Missouri Capitol Police Advisor* via email, send Sergeant Brian Kempker an email (brian.kempker@dps.mo.gov) with "Advisor" in the subject line.

Spotlight:	Workplace Safety, Security and Crime Prevention	
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By remaining vigilant, state employees can help reduce the likelihood of crime and violence in the workplace.

- Use your ID badge or code when accessing security buildings and areas; don't allow others to "piggyback" behind you.
- Secure valuables when leaving your work area for a prolonged period of time.
- Secure doors, windows, cabinets/drawers at the end of the day.
- Report suspicious activity as soon as possible; providing as much information as possible about the activity and possible suspect(s).
- If you fear someone from your personal life may try to harm you at work, report the situation to your supervisor and/or law enforcement; you may also be interested in filing for an Ex Parte, or temporary protection order; the following [link](#) provides some great information.

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July 2015

Harassing Communications

Harassment is something no one should have to suffer at work, at home or anywhere else. Below are some of the ways you can be victimized by harassment. If you are dealing with one of the examples below, or a similar situation, promptly notify the appropriate law enforcement agency so they may investigate and take the appropriate action.

- If someone threatens to commit a felony, and in doing so frightens, intimidates or causes you emotional distress; or
- If someone uses coarse and offensive language, and in doing so puts you in fear of unwanted physical contact or harm; or
- If someone makes an anonymous telephone call or any electronic communication, and in doing so frightens, intimidates or causes you emotional distress.

Parking Tickets Can Be Paid Online

The Cole County Circuit Clerk's Office will now accept online payments for court fees or fines, including Missouri Capitol Police parking tickets. There will be a small processing fee included in the price for all payments made online. For more information, or to make an online payment, visit <http://www.colecountycourts.org> and select the "How Do I" tab at the top of the page. Then select the "How do I pay court cost online?" A PDF page will pop up giving you directions on how to access the online payment portal.

Spotlight:

Children, Cars and Heat Stroke



According to Safe Kids USA, since 1998 more than 500 children across the U.S. have died from heat stroke while unattended in a vehicle. More than half of these reported heat stroke deaths occurred when a distracted caregiver forgot a child was in the vehicle. Other incidents included children playing in an unattended vehicle and becoming trapped or adults leaving children unattended in a vehicle for "just a few minutes."

Together we can reduce the number of dangerous situations and deaths by remembering to **ACT**:

- **A**void heat stroke-related injury and death by:
 - Never leaving your child alone in the car, even for a minute.
 - Consistently locking unattended vehicle doors and trunks.
- **C**reate reminders and habits that give you and your child's caregiver a safety net:
 - Establish a peace-of-mind plan. When you drop off your child, make a habit of calling or texting all other caregivers, so all of you know where your child is at all times.
 - Place a purse, briefcase, gym bag, cell phone or an item that is needed at your next stop in the back seat.
 - Set the alarm on your cell phone or computer calendar as a reminder to drop your child off at childcare.
- **T**ake action if you see an unattended child in a vehicle:
 - Dial 911 immediately and follow the instructions that emergency personnel provide – they are trained to determine if a child is in danger.

For more information, visit www.safekids.org/.

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August 2015

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Moving Wall Display Coming to Capitol Grounds

The Moving Wall, a half-size replica of the Washington, D.C. Vietnam Veterans Memorial will be on display on the Capitol grounds Sept. 24-28. Do not miss this opportunity to visit this mobile memorial that has been touring the country for more than 30 years.

Spotlight:

Back to School – Safety Tips for Motorists



Sharing the road safely with school buses

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, riding a school bus to school is 13 times safer than riding in a passenger vehicle and 10 times safer than walking to school. More children are hurt outside the bus than inside as passengers. Most of the children who lose their lives in bus-related crashes are pedestrians between the ages of 4 and 7, who are hit by the bus or motorists illegally passing a stopped school bus.

- It is illegal to pass a school bus that is stopped to load or unload children.
- School buses use yellow flashing lights to alert motorists that they are preparing to stop to load or unload children. Red flashing lights and an extended stop sign arm signal to motorists the bus is stopped and children are getting on or off the bus.
- All 50 states require that traffic in both directions stop on undivided roadways when students are entering or exiting a bus.
- The area 10 feet around a school bus is where children are in the most danger of being hit. Stop your car far enough from the bus to allow children the necessary space to safely enter and exit the bus.
- Be alert. Children are unpredictable. Children walking to or from their bus are usually very comfortable with their surroundings. This makes them more likely to take risks, fail to look both ways or ignore hazards.
- Never pass a school bus on the right. It is illegal and could have tragic consequences.

Sharing the road safely with child pedestrians

All drivers need to recognize the special safety needs of pedestrians, especially children. Generally, pedestrians have the right-of-way at all intersections.

- Drivers should not block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn. Do not stop with a portion of your vehicle over the crosswalk. Blocking the crosswalk forces pedestrians to go around your vehicle and puts them in a dangerous situation.
- In a school zone when a warning flasher or flashers are blinking, you must stop to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a marked crosswalk or at an intersection without a marked crosswalk.
- Always stop when directed to do so by a school patrol sign, school patrol officer or designated crossing guard.
- Children are the least predictable pedestrians and the most difficult to see. Take extra care to look out for children not only in school zones, but also in residential areas, playgrounds and parks.
- Don't honk your horn, rev your engine or do anything to rush or scare a pedestrian in front of your car, even if you have the legal right-of-way.

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September 2015

Missouri Capitol Police Customer Satisfaction Survey

Missouri Capitol Police would like your help. This month kicks off the Capitol Police Department's annual Customer Satisfaction Survey. The results of the survey help us review our service plan to ensure that all practices are up-to-date and effective. If you are registered to receive the Missouri Capitol Police monthly Advisor, you will automatically receive an e-mail with a link to the survey which will be available in early September. If you are not currently a subscriber but would like to complete the survey, e-mail Sgt. Brian Kempker at brian.kempker@dps.mo.gov and include "survey" in the subject line.

Missouri General Assembly Veto Session

The Missouri General Assembly will hold a veto session on Sept. 16. State employees working in the downtown complex should expect increased traffic and a greater demand for parking. Please plan accordingly.

Reminder – Vietnam Veterans Memorial Moving Wall Coming to Capitol Grounds

"The Moving Wall" is the half-size replica of the Washington, D.C. Vietnam Veterans Memorial and has been touring the country for more than 30 years. The Moving Wall will be on display on the Capitol Grounds Sept. 24-28.

How long is Found Property Retained?

Missouri Capitol Police retains lost and found property for 70 days. Once 70 days has passed, the items are transferred to the State Treasurer's Unclaimed Property Office, State Surplus Property, or the Salvation Army. If you have misplaced an item, please check our lost and found to see if it has been turned in. Keys, jewelry, money, cell phones, clothing and other items are turned in to us on a daily basis. Our lost and found is located in our communications center. You may inquire about lost items by coming to our communications window, which is located on the first floor of the Truman Building, next to the escalator. If you are unable to stop by during business hours or would rather call us, please call (573) 522-2222 for assistance.

Spotlight:

Staying Safe at Work



Capitol Police reminds employees to pay attention to doors and windows when leaving the office to ensure that they are closed and locked properly. With variations in temperatures, doors that may otherwise close easily can start to stick, preventing them from securing properly. To protect employees still in the office area and personal and state property, double check doors when leaving for the day to make sure they have securely latched and are locked. If you are unable to get a door to secure, notify Capitol Police at (573) 522-2222.

If you witness suspicious activity or suspicious persons at any time please call Capitol Police at (573) 522-2222 or #627 from your cell phone immediately to report it. When activity is immediately reported, officers are able to quickly respond to assess the situation. When calling, please be prepared to provide as much information about the activity as possible, including a detailed description, location and time of occurrence.

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October 2015

Moving Wall Draws Thousands to Capitol



An estimated 30,000 people, including more than 1,000 students on school field trips, visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Moving Wall while it was on the South Lawn of the State Capitol from Sept. 24 to 28.

For many, a visit to the one-half scale replica of the Washington D.C. Vietnam Veterans Memorial was an emotional experience. It contains the names of 58,307 service men and women who died in action or are listed as missing in action during the war.

Forty-eight of those memorialized on the wall were from Mid-Missouri. More than 200 people volunteered to conduct tours and offer other assistance to visitors over the five days the memorial was in Jefferson City.

New Officers

Capitol Police welcomes Adam Hoskins and Brandon Millikin to the department. Both officers will be undergoing a nine-week field-training program that includes becoming familiar with department policies and procedures, gaining knowledge of best law enforcement practices and procedures, and building and property familiarization.

Spotlight:

Halloween Safety Tips



Walk Safely

- Cross the street at corners. Look left, right and left again before crossing, and keep looking as you cross.
- Put down electronic devices and keep heads up and walk, do not run, across the street.
- Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.

Trick or Treat With an Adult

- Adults should accompany children under 12 at night. Children who do not need adult supervision should stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.

Keep Costumes both Creative and Safe

- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
- Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
- When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.

Drive Extra Safely on Halloween

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.

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November 2015

Suspect Charged in Motor Vehicles Thefts

A suspect has now been charged in several motor vehicles thefts that Capitol Police investigated in late August at the Department of Conservation's Runge Nature Center. During the investigation, and in conjunction with local law enforcement agencies, a suspect was identified. The suspect was then spotted and arrested in Boone County after a high-speed pursuit and foot chase. The Capitol Police case resulted in charges of felony theft, property damage and driving while revoked. Charges resulting from the other agencies include tampering with a motor vehicle, fraudulent use of a credit device, possession of a controlled substance and receiving stolen property.

Remember to "Fall Back" Early Sunday Morning

Sunday, Nov. 1 is the end of Daylight Saving Time. Along with setting your clock back one hour, it is also a good time to change batteries in your smoke/carbon dioxide alarms.

Spotlight:

Holiday Home Security



With the holidays approaching, many people will be heading out on shopping sprees and extended out of town trips to visit relatives. Here are some safety tips from Capitol Police:

- Don't post your family's holiday travel plans on Facebook and other social media sites. This can be an invitation to a thief to stop by for a visit.
- Put holiday lights on an automatic timer. Holiday lights that stay on can be an indication that people aren't home. It's also worth investing in an automatic timer for indoor lights.
- Have a trusted neighbor or relative pick up your mail and newspapers. Stacked up newspapers are an obvious indication no one is home.
- Keep your home secure. All doors and windows should have functioning locks. Do not keep a spare key under the door mat or a potted plant. Thieves know to check common hiding places.
- Don't run holiday light extension cords through windows. That means the window isn't fully closed and latched and creates a vulnerability a thief can take advantage of.
- Make sure holiday gifts are not visible inside your home from the street. Thieves are looking for opportunities and vulnerabilities. Don't provide either at your home.
- Don't call attention to the valuable gifts your family may have received by placing empty boxes outside. It's best to break down boxes, turn them inside out, and put them in your trash or recycling receptacle. Do not place them at the curb until collection day.

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December 2015

Operation Toys

Each December, Jefferson City-area law enforcement agencies come together to help spread holiday cheer to community children whose families may be experiencing financial hardship. Officers, deputies and troopers meet with the children at the Jefferson City Police Department. Each child is teamed up with an officer. The officer spends time getting to know the child, and then they begin their shopping experience. The child rides with the officer in patrol vehicles, operating the emergency lights and siren as they drive to Walmart East, where they are greeted by Santa and his helpers. The children then get to shop with the officers to purchase Christmas gifts their families would not be able to provide. The Jefferson City Police Department organizes this annual event, which also includes the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Missouri Department of Corrections, Lincoln University Police Department, Cole County Sheriff's Department and Capitol Police. This year's event is scheduled for Dec. 19 at 7a.m. You are invited to view this happy event in the Walmart parking lot or along Highway 50 as the parade of emergency vehicles arrives.

Missouri State Office Building Closings – Info Line

The Office of Administration's hotline for announcements about state office closures is 888-390-9927. Recorded messages address holiday closures, special building closures as a result of weather or critical incidents, and the location of service centers like warming centers, whenever they're activated.

Two December Events Affect Capitol Complex Parking

Two large events are scheduled in December that will affect the downtown complex. The events are:

- Saturday, Dec. 5 – Annual Jefferson City Christmas Parade.
- Tuesday, Dec. 8 – Annual Jefferson City High School "Capitol Caroling."

Farewell to a Trusted Capitol Police Employee

After 18 years of distinguished service as a communications operator for the Department of Public Safety and two years of service with the Jefferson City Police Department, Capitol Police Communications Operator Loretta Cook has announced her retirement. Please join us in congratulating Loretta on a job well done. We will all miss you, Loretta!

Communications Operator Job Opportunity

With Loretta's retirement, an opening exists for a Capitol Police communications operator. If you are interested and already have an EASE application on file with the Missouri Division of Personnel, simply find the opening at <https://meritregisters.mo.gov/> and indicate that you would like to be considered. If you do not already have an application on file, you may initiate the process at <https://www.ease.mo.gov/logon/registerorlogon.aspx?returnurl=%2f>.

Spotlight:

Think Security When Making Holiday Purchases Online



Before starting your holiday shopping online, make sure security measures are in place on the device you are using, whether it's a cell phone, tablet or computer.

- Be wary of e-communications, such as e-mail, tweets, posts and blogs that offer amazing deals that sound too good to be true. Cyber criminals often attempt to lure you in this way.
- Never make purchases over an unsecure Wi-Fi connection. Using direct web access on your phone/tablet is safer than an unsecured Wi-Fi network.
- Make sure the site is legitimate: This includes a closed padlock on your web browser's address bar or a URL address that begins with "https" instead of just "http" when you get to checkout.
- Always keep a paper trail of your online transactions, including the product description, price, online receipt, terms of the sale and copies of email exchanges with the seller, if applicable.